

**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2007

**Agenda Item No. 18**

**Agenda Item:**

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Scott Grunder, Fishery Program Coordinator

**Background:**

The Department's 2001-2006 Fisheries Management Plan has expired. During calendar year 2006, Fisheries Bureau staff developed the Draft 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan incorporating results of the 2006 Angler Opinion Survey and public comment. A second round of public comment on the Draft Plan is open through January 2007. Bureau staff previously briefed the Commission on preliminary results of the angler opinion survey in July 2006. At that meeting, Bureau staff sought and gained Commission approval to seek public review and comment. We have considered and incorporated public comments received to date as appropriate and will do the same following the second round of comments. This briefing is intended to summarize public comment and highlight key components of the Draft Plan. We intend to seek Commission approval of the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan in March 2007.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

The Draft 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan describes how the Department intends to manage public fisheries for the next six years as per its mission found in Idaho Code Section 36-103. The Department's strategic plan has a goal to "Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management." This draft plan considers public desires and biological needs and sets management direction and goals. The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. The Fisheries Bureau will seek Commission approval of the Fisheries Management Plan in March 2007.

**Public Involvement Process:**

We conducted a random mail survey seeking angler opinions on various fisheries management issues. Surveys were mailed to 8,400 resident and 1,200 non-resident anglers. Results are summarized in the Draft Plan (see attached excerpt). During the past year, the Department solicited public comment on two occasions for the Fisheries Management Plan (summer and winter 2006) for approximately three months.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The intent of this presentation is to update the Commission on the status of the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan. No action is needed.

**Justification:**

While this presentation is a program update, the Fisheries Bureau will seek Commission approval of the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan at its March 2007 meeting. This will allow time for final public review, analysis of public comment, and any adjustments in the Plan if needed.